

White House denies summit report

JUPITER, Florida (R) — The White House denied a report on Wednesday that President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will hold a summit meeting in Germany in June. "No summit has been scheduled," said Deputy White House Press Secretary Stephen Hart. "We would like to have a summit some time in the first half of the year," said Mr. Hart, who stressed that no date had been set. Mr. Hart was travelling with Mr. Bush, who was wrapping up a four-day holiday in Florida before returning to Washington late Wednesday. Earlier Wednesday, the German newspaper Bild reported that Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev would meet in Berlin in mid-June. Bild said the two men would hold a separate meeting during a gathering of heads of government from the 34 member states of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSC). Bild said the CSC leaders would meet on June 17-20. Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev had been scheduled to meet in Moscow last February but the meeting was delayed because of the Gulf war and problems with finishing a treaty on the reduction of strategic arms.



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U.N. endorses ceasefire resolution

Iraq's military potential to be stripped, part of oil revenues to be used for reparations, border with Kuwait to be guaranteed

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council approved a Gulf ceasefire resolution Wednesday ordering Iraq to eliminate its weapons of mass destruction, impounding part of its oil revenues to pay reparations and paving the way for the withdrawal of U.S. occupation troops.

The U.S.-initiated draft was endorsed by a vote of 12 in favour of one against, with Cuba casting the lone negative vote. There were two abstentions, by Yemen and Ecuador.

Cuba and Yemen opposed or abstained on many of the 13 previous resolutions adopted by the council following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August, including a decision last November authorising war against Iraq.

The 3,900-word resolution, the longest and most detailed in council history, also maintains sanctions against Iraq's imports until further notice, except for food and other essential items, and guarantees a 1963 border between Iraq and Kuwait that Baghdad still disputes.

Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Asbari said the Security Council proposal reached too far.

U.S.-Iran hostage agreement reported

BEIRUT (AP) — The Beirut newspaper Al Diyar said Wednesday that Washington has reached an agreement with Iran on the release of Western hostages held in Lebanon before April 15. The report quoted unidentified sources in the predominantly Christian sector of Beirut as saying the deal was reached during a visit to Tehran, the Iranian capital, last week by an American diplomat. "The foreign hostages held in Lebanon would be released before the 15th of this month," the report said. "The settlement was reached in direct contacts carried out by an American diplomat who paid a secret visit to Tehran last week," said Al Diyar.

Waite had spy bug in his beard

LONDON (R) — Iranians told a jailed Briton that churchman Terry Waite was taken hostage in Lebanon because he was a spy whose beard was bugged. Roger Cooper said Wednesday that during his five-year incarceration he discussed British hostages with Iranians whom he said had "a definite intelligence link" with pro-Iranian Lebanese groups holding Western hostages. They told him that Mr. Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, was carrying a homing device in his beard to guide U.S. agents to Western hostages in Lebanon. "Quite early on after the arrest of Terry Waite I was told he was a spy and that they'd found a homing device hidden in his hair or his beard. And this proved that he was trying to lure the captors to where the hostages were and then the CIA would be monitoring him and they would be able to come in and rescue them," Cooper told the British Broadcasting Corporation. Mr. Waite's relatives said the spy charge was absurd.

Libya, Syria reject foreign presence

NICOSIA (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has held talks with Syria's vice president and both oppose any foreign military presence in the Middle East, the Libyan news agency JANA said Wednesday. Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam had discussed the current Arab situation with Colonel Qadhafi. "Viewpoints were identical on... rejecting any foreign military presence in the region whether in the form of armed units or stockpiling of arms and equipment," the agency said. U.S. officials say they are considering setting up a permanent base in the Gulf, possibly in Bahrain, after the bulk of their troops withdraw from the region.

chemical and biological weapons and nuclear-weapons-useable material, as well as all ballistic missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres, like the Scuds used to bombard Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Once the Security Council is satisfied Iraq's "offensive" potential has been neutralised, its sanctions on Iraqi exports — mostly oil — will be lifted.

But a percentage of the oil revenues is to be funnelled into a U.N.-administered fund to meet claims by governments, companies and individuals harmed by Iraq's invasion and seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

The precise percentage of revenues to be earmarked for the fund will be determined by the council, taking into account Iraq's existing debt commitments, its capacity to pay and the requirements of the Iraqi people.

When Baghdad says it accepts all provisions of the nine-page draft, a formal ceasefire will replace the present month-long suspension of hostilities between Iraq and the U.S.-led coalition.

This would clear the way for the despatch of U.N. observers to patrol a zone extending 10 kilometres into Iraq and five kilometres into Kuwait.

The United States will then be able to withdraw some 100,000 troops now occupying a swathe of southern Iraq.

The council, prompted by requests from Turkey and France, was due to

turn to the humanitarian aspects of

that problem almost immediately.

Under the resolution, Iraq must submit within 15 days a list of all

chemical and biological weapons,

nuclear weapons-useable materials and

ballistic missiles, together with pre-

cise locations.

Within 45 days the U.N. secretary-

general is to present the council with a plan for the establishment of a

commission to conduct on-site inspec-

tions and destroy all the weapons

within another 45 days.

Periodic monitoring will continue to ensure Iraq does not acquire such

arms or materials in the future.

Depriving Iraq of these weapons is

depicted by the resolution as steps

towards the establishment of a Mid-

east zone free of weapons of mass

destruction and of a global ban on

chemical weapons.

Mr. Bush said, however, he had no

intention of involving U.S. forces in

Iraq's internal struggles.

Mr. Bush said "we've done the

heavy lifting" — apparently refer-

ring to the Gulf war — and that it was

now time for Iraqi people to resolve

matters for themselves.

Asked about suggestions that U.S.

troops in Iraq be permitted to shoot

down Iraqi combat helicopters being

used against rebels, Mr. Bush said:

"We are not there to intervene. It is

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq retakes last town held by rebels

Combined agency dispatches

Baghdad appeals to northerners to return

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq said Wednesday that it had put down an insurrection in the north and appealed to all those who left their homes there to return and live in peace.

Iraqi radio, quoting a statement from the Iraqi leadership, said that the leaders of the rebellion had spread rumours that the government would victimise people living in the area.

"Citizens in the cities and the areas where law and order have been reestablished need not worry about their lives, property and legal rights," it added.

The statement, issued after a meeting of Iraqi leaders chaired by President Saddam Hussein, said only those involved in "crimes of murder, war, rape and theft, or (who) raised arms against the state and law," would be held accountable.

"We call on those who have left their homes in the northern cities and villages to return to live in peace and share the victory and security with everyone else," it said.

The statement, denounced those behind the rebellion as "gangs of treason and sabotage" who had had links with countries opposed to Iraq.

It said the Iraqi government had taken the necessary measures to restore security and order in the oil city of Kirkuk and the towns of Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaimaniya.

"The military action the government had to take to put down insurrection and sabotage in the north has thus fulfilled its purpose," the statement said.

Prime Minister Saudous Hammadi, Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan, Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer and Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yousef Hamzoudi attended the meeting.

"The gang leaders presiding over the sabotage, whose hopes and projects and suspect plans have been thwarted, have sought to spread panic and biased rumours among the populace in these cities," they said in their statement.

"These rumours are that the state will victimise everyone, without discriminating saboteurs and citizens, and that the armed forces will target whoever is found in places where acts of sabotage have been committed," they added.

But they said ordinary citizens had nothing to fear.

A spokesman, who read the statement, accused foreign countries of opposing Iraq's conducting a psychological campaign "in the name of a false concern for Iraqi citizens."

Such countries did not express concern about the fate of Iraq's 18 million people during the attacks on them by the United States and its allies during the Gulf war, he said.

The spokesman appealed to neighbouring countries "to spare their relations with Iraq" by dissociating themselves from such a campaign.

refugees were on the run from violence.

Iraq, meanwhile, took steps to ease Kurds' fears that govern-

men troops would take revenge on the northern cities that were

(Continued from page 4)

France takes lead in holding Kurdish bastion

PARIS (Agencies) — A French cabinet minister will fly to Turkey to assess the needs of thousands of Kurdish refugees, French officials said.

Earlier reports that Junior Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Bernard Kouchner would enter Iraq without prior clearance from Baghdad were incorrect, they added.

Mr. Kouchner was to leave for Ankara at 2200 GMT Wednesday on a special flight and was awaiting authorisation from Tehran to fly to Iran later.

Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said earlier that France was preparing fresh diplomatic and humanitarian initiatives to create the plight of Kurdish people.

Mr. Kouchner's spokesman said he had no immediate plans to go to Iraq.

Mr. Kouchner, 51, a doctor who helped create the international life group Médecins sans Frontières, has carried out difficult humanitarian actions in Indochina, Africa and the Middle East.

The decision to send Mr. Kouchner came as France urged action against Iraqi "repression" of Kurds, protesting to Baghdad and asking the United Nations to condemn the violence and maintain its trade embargo until repression ended.

As fears mounted for the fate of hundreds of thousands of Kurdish refugees, President Mitterrand told a cabinet meeting the prestige of the United Nations would be badly hurt unless it condemned the repression.

"Failing this, the political and moral authority of the United Nations would be seriously affected," France would say.

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein is greeted by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan upon his return home Wednesday (Petra photo)

King: Europe anxious to see Mideast peace

Arab reconciliation should not be at the expense of Jordan's principled stand

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home Wednesday after visits to France and Germany and said he found great concern in Europe over the Middle East situation and that European countries were anxious to see just peace in the region.

The King, who met with French President François Mitterrand and other French leaders in Paris and German President Richard von Weizsäcker and other German leaders in Bonn, said his talks in the French and German capitals were "extremely good and frank and were held in an atmosphere of friendship and confidence at all levels."

The King, in remarks carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Europe has a major role to play in the Middle East.

"Indeed, there is a great concern in Europe that the Middle East issues should be dealt with as soon as possible and in a

manner that would bring about a drastic change leading towards the better and towards the achievement of a just, durable and comprehensive solution," the King told Petra.

The Palestine question, the King said, acquires an appropriate status among all other issues and it should be dealt with quickly in a manner that would enable the Palestinians to exercise their right and allow the Palestinian leadership to have its say and contribute to the peace-making process within the ongoing international efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The King, expressing satisfaction over the outcome of his visits, said that France and Germany can play a special role along with the European countries.

"Discussions are under way to find ways for the establishment of a comprehensive peace," the King added in reply to a question

(Continued on page 5)

At least 18 Palestinians shot and wounded in Gaza

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (R) — Israeli troops shot and wounded 18 Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip later Tuesday when stone-throwing protesters took to the streets following a call from the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement, Palestinian sources said.

The uprising has regained momentum since the Gulf war and the Israeli army eased a curfew that confined most of the Palestinian residents of Gaza and the West Bank to their homes during the conflict.

Israeli soldiers responded initially with teargas and rubber and plastic bullets but then used live ammunition, wounding 18 youths in Gaza City, Khan Younis, Rafah and Shati refugee camp, they said.

Hamas, the dominant force in Gaza behind the 39-month-old Palestinian uprising, urged Palestinians to make Tuesday a day of confrontation.

The decision to send Mr. Kouchner came as France urged action against Iraqi "repression" of Kurds, protesting to Baghdad and asking the United Nations to condemn the violence and maintain its trade embargo until repression ended.

"We shall consider the 17th day of Ramadan a day of distinguished escalation of confrontations," a Hamas leaflet said.

Palestinian flags with Hamas

scrawled on them hung outside several homes. Palestinian sources said that Hamas activists overturned several carts in an open-air market in Gaza City. The activists accused the vendors of selling Israeli bananas.

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In occupied Arab Jerusalem, police reported late Tuesday that they had imposed a curfew on Shufat refugee camp in an attempt to halt clashes.

Earlier in the day, unknown assailants in the occupied territories killed four men suspected of aiding Israeli security forces and a woman died of wounds inflicted earlier.

"Every Palestinian wishes for relations with Egypt to be at their best," Mr. Akeel said. "When it comes to solving the Palestinian issue, we cannot do without Egypt."

Thousands of masked demonstrators stoned army bases and vehicles and set fire to tyres in several Gaza areas following a Hamas call for a day of confrontation, the sources added.

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PLO wants talks with Lebanese on disarmament

TUNIS, (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Wednesday it supported the Lebanese government's plans to disarm militias but wanted talks on arrangements for Palestinians.

The Lebanese government has demanded all armed groups in Lebanon, including Palestinian groups, disarm by the end of April or face forcible disarmament by Syrian and Lebanese troops.

The PLO leadership discussed the situation in Lebanon on Tuesday and decided that "the Lebanese government's efforts to strengthen sovereignty and stability and liberate South Lebanon deserve support," the PLO news agency Wafa said.

The PLO leadership also expressed its sincere desire to reach complete understanding with the Lebanese government, through brotherly dialogue, on all matters related to organising the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and respecting the interests and rights of Palestinian citizens," it was asked.

"Ain Al Hilweh's tin shacks lined along narrow, dark alleys bear witness to years of Israeli attacks, inter-Palestinian fighting and clashes with Lebanese militias.

Alleys are muddy from broken sewers and residents patch shell-pocked walls and broken windows with plastic bags stuffed with blankets and old clothes to keep out the winter wind.

Trucks mounted with anti-aircraft guns manned by young guerrillas with Kalashnikov rifles guard the camp's entrances.

"Understand this: We will never surrender our weapons," said a 19-year-old fighter said, raising his Kalashnikov in the air.

Many of the camp's 45,000 refugees said they only trusted their own men to defend them. The guerrillas said they could not let go of their weapons as long as Israel continued to control a border "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Some 3,000 Lebanese troops deployed in South Lebanon in February near Palestinian strong-

holds to extend the state's authority and stop guerrillas firing rockets at Israel.

Diplomats and Lebanese officials say disbanding the tens of thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese gunmen is the biggest hurdle for an Arab-backed plan to end 16 years of civil war.

The government has appointed a committee to meet Palestinian representatives and discuss how to disband their private armies.

The Palestinians want the committee to discuss political relations between the (PLO) and Lebanon and organise their military presence in the country.

They also want a Palestinian embassy in Beirut, a move that would depend on improving relations between Syria — the main power broker in Lebanon — and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Some refugees at 'Ain Al Hilweh say their armed struggle will only end when they have their own territory.

"We are supposed to continue the fight for our homeland if they take our weapons? once they give us a homeland, then we will be more willing to disarm," said Wakid Mohammad, a 25-year-old pharmacist.

Asked if they would disarm in exchange for security guarantees from the Lebanese government, a group of men shouted together: "What guarantees? we have been fooled before, but never again."

Hundreds of unarmed Palestinians were massacred by militiamen at Beirut's Sabra and Shatila camps during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

The PLO had withdrawn its men from Lebanon in return for U.S. guarantees that the settlements would be protected.

Since then guerrillas have been returning to Lebanon, where an estimated 10,000 Palestinian men are now deployed.

Kuwait nightlife gears up

KUWAIT (R) — The disco beat is pounding out again in Salmiya as status-conscious Kuwaitis shake off seven months of Iraqi occupation to rediscover the good times.

Salmiya, Kuwait's most fashionable nightlife district, is the place to be seen. Teenagers in sports cars cruise the area. Couples throng the streets to shop for elegant suits and shoes, even though it is past midnight.

Fast-food restaurants are packed with people queuing for hamburgers — the urge to eat out is more intense during the holy month of Ramadan.

Tired of living in fear and of the hardships of post-war reconstruction, Kuwaitis are flocking to rediscover the pleasures they enjoyed before the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion shattered their consumer-oriented lifestyle.

"I looked everywhere to find a hamburger, because I haven't eaten a hamburger since August," said Yusef Mohammad, a 23-year-old television director.

He stood in a long line waiting to be served at a packed buy-and-munch establishment which reopened on Tuesday night.

Mr. Mohammad said Kuwaitis' top priority was not buying clothes or going out, but eating — "to eat what they couldn't eat during the occupation."

Nearby Salem Mubarak Street, Kuwait City's equivalent of London's Oxford Street or New York's Fifth Avenue, is packed with cars and shoppers strolling along pavement cars drive around in a circle bumper-to-bumper, carrying Kuwaitis eager to savour the atmosphere. Teenagers lounged in one car with the stereo thumping out a disco beat.

"We'd almost forgotten that these old days would return. We'd almost lost hope," said Salah Al Azmi, a Kuwaiti army officer who lived on the run during the Iraqi occupation, said as he strolled along Salem Mubarak Street with his wife.

During the occupation, Salem Mubarak Street changed. People still came to shop, but street vendors replaced the established stores, many of whose owners fled the country.

The variety in the stores now is not as extensive as it used to be and some shops, many of them looted, are still boarded up.

But you can already buy expensive suits, shoes, toiletries, electrical goods, spectacles and cassette tapes.

Mohammad Radwan, a Syrian shopkeeper selling women's clothes, said two of his three stores had been set on fire during the occupation and he was only able to open one. "But it's not too bad," he said.

At the nearby Sultan Centre supermarket, workers are filling shelves with a limited variety of goods. But there are heaps of fresh fruits and vegetables.

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MAP raises funds for Palestinians, says conditions worsened after Gulf war

AMMAN — The London-based Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) is currently raising funds to help support the medical needs of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation. One of the founding members, Dr. Swee Chai Ang, author of the book "From Beirut to Jerusalem," has been active in promoting the cause of the Palestinians.

Kathy Qaqish from Radio Jordan interviewed Dr. Ang on the telephone and asked her about the reports MAP had been receiving on the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

"Because of the situation in the Gulf nearly 300,000 Palestinians who used to work in Kuwait and who used to transfer money to their families in the occupied lands have lost their livelihood with devastating effects on themselves and their relatives in areas under Israeli occupation," said Dr. Ang.

"Indeed these Palestinian ex-patriates used to finance Palestinian institutions, like hospitals and schools, and MAP is trying to find means of supporting the medical centres in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip," she said.

"Not only has the demand from the Palestinian medical institutions increased, but our own problems in England have doubled as there is a lot of misunderstanding in the West regarding the Palestinians due to erroneous information about the Palestinians," she added.

"I think that the Palestinians have been very much the victim of what was going on in the Gulf and, regrettably, sympathy for

Some Muslims reluctant to go on pilgrimage after Gulf war

By Kama Sabbagh
Reuter

AMMAN — Some Muslims are reluctant to make the annual pilgrimage to Islam's holiest sites because of Saudi Arabia's anti-Iraq stand in the Gulf war.

The Jordanian government, anxious to heal the Arab rifts caused by the conflict, has given the pilgrims clearance to go.

But they may be deterred by anger at Saudi Arabia's support for the U.S.-led allies and sensitivity over the continued presence of U.S. troops.

The haj is one of the five basic duties of Islam and should be performed by every Muslim at least once in his lifetime if he has the means.

"I will not go to the haj while Americans and Jews are still there desecrating the holy places," said Jordanian technician Nidal Marzouk. "It is a duty, but after all that happened this year it is hard for me to forget and go."

Jordan's main Muslim Brother-

Libyan team, JES officials hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A Libyan economic and trade team, currently on a visit to Jordan, Wednesday met with the Board of Directors of the Jordanian Exporters Society (JES).

Deputy Chairman of the society's Board of Directors Kamal Qaqish briefed the team on the society's duties and works in serving its members by marketing and social services offices in Jordan.

Human Appeal also signed an

Charity organisation, UNRWA sign agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — An agreement of cooperation has been signed between Human Appeal — Jordan office, represented by the regional Director Bahiyyeh Shabanah and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), represented by the field relief and social services offices in Jordan.

The two parties agreed on April 4, 1991, on holding joint cooperation courses of social training and rehabilitation for women in refugee camps.

Human Appeal also signed an

Gulf Bank trains local staff in Kuwait

AMMAN (Petra) — During the months following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Gulf Bank of Kuwait took the opportunity to review its activities in readiness for the resumption of business once the liberation of the country was complete. One major area of activity was the launch of an ambitious training scheme aimed at increasing the number of Kuwaiti nationals employed by the Gulf Bank and to encourage young Kuwaitis to choose banking in the country.

The society provided the Libyan team with lists and catalogues of the Jordanian industries.

Head of the visiting delegation, Saleh Al Sheikhi, who is also in charge of import/export operations in Libya, stressed his country's keenness to bolster and promote cooperation between Jordan and Libya in various fields.

The delegation is on a several-day visit to Jordan for talks designed to promote economic and trade ties between the two countries and pave the way for the signing of new agreements on trade exchanges.

The team has held talks with delegations representing the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Amman Chamber of Commerce.



Dr. Swee Chai Ang

we see hunger even in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and the United Nations agencies have now started to supply food even to non-refugees to prevent starvation," Dr. Ang added.

She said that there was a shortage of food on a constant basis and people starved and suffered from malnutrition mainly because of prolonged curfews.

Dr. Ang referred to her tour in the United States, where she addressed religious groups and politicians, saying: "I think the message is quite clear, that every one does not seek a just and peaceful way of solving things in the Middle East, and therefore I believe that this will not be the last war to be fought." Dr. Ang pointed out.

Dr. Ang said that she would be coming to Jordan in the course of a march to raise funds for the Palestinian people. "I would really want to thank the Jordanian people for all they are doing to help the Palestinians," Dr. Ang said.

Born in 1948, Dr. Ang graduated from the University of Singapore. In 1976 she went to Britain with her husband and qualified as an orthopaedic surgeon. Following the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, Dr. Ang volunteered with a medical team to help the besieged Palestinians in Beirut camps, and was active in her assistance to the refugees following the massacres of Sabra and Shatila.

Her book "From Beirut to Jerusalem" offers an outline of her experience with the Palestinians in Lebanon.

Study shows summer time saved the country JD 1.7m in five years

Jordan switches to summer time April 17

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will switch to summer time at midnight, Wednesday, April 17, 1991, when clocks will be advanced by 60 minutes to run three hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), according to a communiqué issued by Prime Minister Mudar Badran Wednesday.

The switch, adopted for the sixth consecutive year, is aimed at conserving energy, an aim which the government has been trying to achieve through different means.

During the Gulf crisis, the government introduced a number of measures to conserve energy, including the adoption of a two-day per week holiday for government departments, reducing the period during which businesses can operate in the evening, and allowing private cars to run only on alternate days.

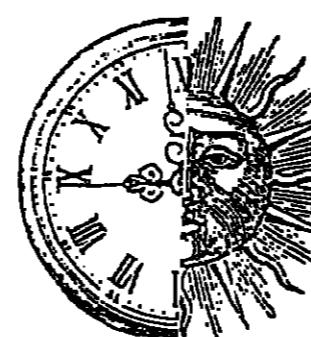
According to a statement issued Wednesday by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has conducted studies on the adoption of summer time in Jordan, revealing that the measure helps reduce fuel consumption in all forms.

The studies, Petra said, quoting the Ministry of Energy, which covered the 1986-1990 period, showed that the reduction in electricity consumption saved fuel worth JD 327,000 each year, and the total amount saved over the past five years, thanks to the introduction of summer time, was 44,000 tonnes of fuel, worth JD 1.7 million.

In view of the current prices of fuel used to generate electricity in Jordan, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources expects that by switching to summer time, this year the country could save as much as JD 500,000, Petra noted.

It said that by applying the summer timing, homes will save one hour of lighting at night.

In addition, the agency said, there will be a cut in the period of time during which air condition-



ing systems operate.

The drive to save energy comes at a time when the cash-strapped country is striving to reduce its fuel import bill.

Following Saudi Arabia's decision to cut off oil supplies to Jordan, which brought to an end Jordan's reliance on Iraqi crude, the Kingdom has now started buying oil from Yemen and Syria at international market rates, higher than the rates of Iraqi crude shipped to Jordan in payment of debts to the Kingdom.

Specialists estimate that by adopting summer time, Jordan will save one hour of energy per day, consumed for lighting, by reducing the need for artificial light during the evening, which means saving up to 20 per cent of the total energy normally consumed in the country.

According to the statistics, Jordan imports about 22 million barrels of crude annually and the energy conservation methods are deemed necessary under the present circumstances.

Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Jamal Sarsa said in a statement last month that the energy conservation programme, introduced by the government during the Gulf crisis, saved up to JD 13,000 on a daily basis.

Syria introduced summer time on April 1, while Israel switched to summer time last month

Humanitarian group lauds Jordan's aid to evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 13-member peace group representing "Eartwavers Organisation" in the United States held a press conference in Amman Wednesday during which they voiced the organisation's appreciation of Jordan's position and Jordan National Red Crescent Society's (JNRS) assistance given to the evacuees who fled Kuwait during the Gulf crisis.

Head of the group Daman Pary said that his organisation had conducted a campaign in the United States to collect contributions to Jordan and said that the Kingdom deserved appreciation and help from all countries for its care for nearly one million evacuees of various nationalities.

Ceramics industry reports ups and downs

AMMAN (J.T.) — A ceramics company in Jordan — Wednesday announced it was operating at 50 per cent production capacity due to the economic recession brought about by the Gulf crisis, but the management has high hopes that new markets will be found soon in Arab and foreign countries.

Ghazi Zakarneh, executive director of the Arab Ceramics Industries Company (ACIC), said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the ceramics plant, founded last year at Sabah Industrial City, near Amman, was seeking new markets to replace those in the Gulf states which have stopped importing their products from Jordan.

The company, which has a total capital of JD 2 million, with investments exceeding JD 5 million, was originally established in Spain before opening a branch in Jordan with capital from Jordan and other Arab countries, Mr. Zakarneh said.

The plant in Spain markets its products in the countries of the European Community, while in Jordan it is selling products, mainly floor and wall tiles, to the Arab World and Asian countries," Mr. Zakarneh pointed out.

Mr. Zakarneh said that the Sabah plant employs 100 workers and technicians, but the number could be increased in the light of an increase in production which

now covers the Kingdom's needs and leaves good amounts for export.

The other ceramics company is the Jordan Ceramics Industries Company (JCIC) which was established in 1977 and which has a total capital of JD 2 million, and assets estimated at JD 7 million, according to the company's Director General Fathi Hiyyas.

Mr. Hiyyas told the Jordan Times that the company's sales last year were worth JD 4.6 million, registering a JD 1 million profit.

"Our production covers 90 per cent of the Jordanian market's needs of ceramics, and we sell products to other Arab and foreign countries as well," said Mr. Hiyyas.

"Recently we signed a contract to sell the Soviet Union \$250,000 worth of ceramics products and last year we sold unspecified amounts to South Korea," Mr. Hiyyas said.

"All the raw materials needed for the ceramics industry in Jordan are found in the country, especially in the areas of Maheis, Mudawara, Batn Al Ghoul and Ras Al Naqab in southern Jordan, but the company continues to buy the paint for the ceramics from foreign countries as no such paint can be found in the Arab World," Mr. Hiyyas added.

"By producing ceramics in Jordan, we are saving the country an estimated JD 4 million in hard currency annually."

Queen tours south

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday toured Wadi Araba and the southern Jordan Valley region, to familiarise herself with the conditions of people there and to get acquainted with the damages inflicted by the rainstorm and floods that swept the area last week.

Queen Noor started her tour by visiting Quweiqra village, situated in the desert extending between the cities of Aqaba and Karak, where she got acquainted with the difficult living conditions of the citizens who are deprived of the basic requirements.

The population of the village is estimated at about 3,000 people, most of them depending on raising sheep and farming, while the rest have no sources of income.

Queen Noor then visited Al Mazra'a area, in the southern Jordan Valley region, to familiarise herself with measures taken by the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) to repair damages caused by floods at Wadi Al Karak irrigation project.

The Queen then reopened Wadi Al Hassa dam in the region after preliminary restoration work ended there.

Her Majesty was briefed by the Karak governor on the damages to the agricultural sector and private and public property.

Queen Noor lauded the citizens' cooperation with the official institution in the process of assessing the extent of damage and commended the government's attempts to find swift solutions to the problems.

She called for enhancing this cooperation because of the fruitful results it will produce in developing the region.

The Queen was accompanied on the tour by Her Royal Highness Princess Aisha Al Faisal, the NHF director general and several officials.

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Iraq's stock of cooking gas, kerosene running out fast

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraq has only a few days' supply of kerosene and cooking gas to meet the demands of its people, and unless the international community rushes in the two products immediately, the very existence of millions of Iraqis would be put in jeopardy, according to experts who are familiar with the energy situation in the embattled country.

According to the statistics, Jordan imports about 22 million barrels of crude annually and the energy conservation methods are deemed necessary under the present circumstances.

Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Jamal Sarsa said in a statement last month that the energy conservation programme, introduced by the government during the Gulf crisis, saved up to JD 13,000 on a daily basis.

It said that by applying the summer timing, homes will save one hour of lighting at night.

In addition, the agency said, there will be a cut in the period of time during which air condition-

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The pre-war oil consumption of Iraq is estimated at around 400,000 barrels a day. Now, the amount of refined products reaching the public is less than 10 per cent of this figure, according to the relief worker, who also emphasised the general priority needs of the Iraqi people.

"Small mobile generators — imported during peacetime but in limited quantities — are being used by the Iraqis now to operate hospitals, but they also need a minimum amount of fuel," the expert pointed out.

"In my personal estimate, the authorities will not be able to meet more than seven to 10 per cent of Iraqis' power needs for the next few months," he said.

Analysts in the power industry say that the pre-war electricity requirement of Iraq was around 1,800 megawatts: about 30 per cent produced by hydroelectric, but these facilities have also been hit in the allied bombing. The country had a total installed capacity of 1,950 megawatts.

"Bombardment has paralysed oil and electricity sectors almost entirely," says the report, a copy of which was available to the Jordan Times. "Power and refineries' production will not be resumed until the first repair phase is complete," it adds.

The report called for allowing Iraq to import not only fuel but also power units and spare parts.

Acting in line with the report, the Security Council voted in the third week of March to partially lift the sanctions imposed on Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait in August. But several conditions were attached to supplying food, medicine and essential commodities, thus slowing down the process.

The Iraqi government has assured the Ahisa mission that it was willing to adhere to U.N. supervision of imports as well as actual use of essentials in the country, the report said.

Akaleh stopped at Huseinieh school and inspected the damages inflicted on it by the floods and later visited Aiy school.

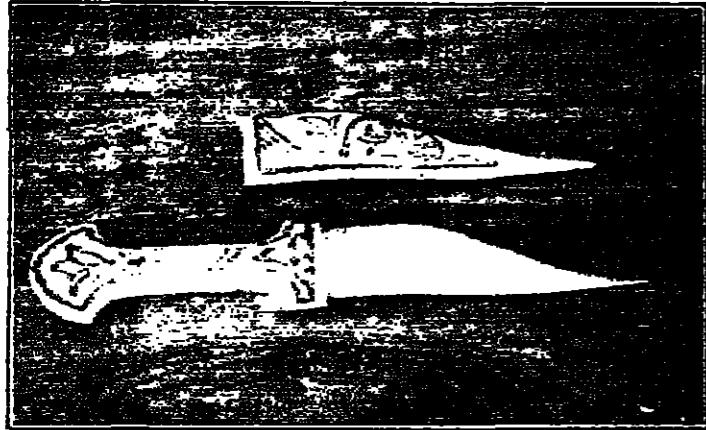
The government Tuesday announced the allocation of JD 1 million to be spent on repair work on roads, schools, irrigation canals, and other public utilities within the boundaries of the municipalities of Tafleah,

Dagger-making — a dying craft

By Debbie Lovatt

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Up a narrow street on the downtown side of Wadi Surour is Tahir Abu Mohaisen's tiny one-room workshop. Every day — except Fridays — for 16 hours the 62 year old craftsman makes swords and daggers.

"I love my work. I made my first dagger when I was eight. My father had been taught by his father and then I learned the trade from



An unfinished sterling silver knife with the design to be engraved marked out.

bim," said Mr. Abu Mohaisen proudly.

"Life was harder in the old days. I never went to school and I can't read or write," he chuckled.

"My grandfather started the business in 1800. He travelled around the country making and selling his goods. In those times the main trading centres were Tafileh, Karak, Ma'an, Ruweish and Amman. I was very young when we came to settle in Amman in 1932," said Mr.

Abu Mohaisen whilst piling onto a desk many examples of his work.

"In the old times my grandfather used to make swords and repair guns, as well as make daggers and knives," said the craftsman holding up to the sunlight an old dagger about 50 centimetres long. "This is 200 years old," he contended.

"The knives and daggers are like the ones the bedouins used in the past to kill sheep or defend themselves from

wild animals or their enemies," Mr. Abu Mohaisen explained, obviously enjoying the gruesome picture he was conjuring up of a way of life now imitated by moviemakers and actors.

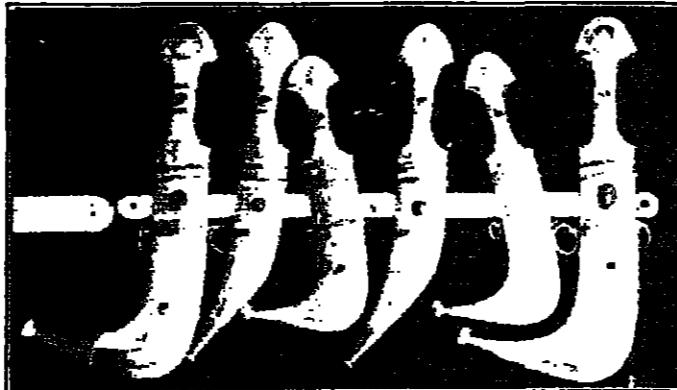
He continued: "Now tourists buy the knives for ornaments or souvenirs from tourist shops in town or in the big hotels. Not many Jordanians buy my things and I don't export because this is only a small business."

One silver dagger decorated with copper and silver beading takes one day to make. But daggers made from sterling silver, which is less pliable than regular silver, and with a hilt carved from sheep or ox horn, take five days.

First the blade is crudely cut from metal, heated and then beaten into shape. It is filed and polished and then fixed to the hilt which is made from a single block of wood or horn. These two pieces are fixed together and encased with silver foil and copper foil before being decorated with engravings and silver beading. The sheath follows the same process as the hilt, but horn is not used for it, only wood.

Mr. Abu Mohaisen uses silver imported from Germany, Yugoslavia, Italy and sometimes Britain by a large trading company. "I don't import it myself because I only use very small amounts," explained the knife-maker.

Like other businesses in Jordan, this one has suffered from the Gulf crisis and consequent drop in tourism.



Daggers decorated with emblems and inlaid with semi-precious stones on display at the workshop.



Taher Abu Mohaisen working on a new knife.

war.

On the wall in the workshop is a picture of His Majesty King Hussein being presented with an ornamental dagger. "In 1986 at the Jerash Festival the King was presented with a dagger I made. I've been exhibiting at the Jerash Festival for six years," said the

proud craftsman.

Mu'tasem, Mr. Abu Mohaisen's 27 year old son, has not followed the family trade of three generations and did not seem bothered that "once my father dies in maybe ten years' time there will be no more work-room and no one will know how to make knives and daggers."

Magic in the shadow of the Pyramids

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — It is not easy to witness an Egyptian exorcism. You must first go through a complicated process, involving secret telephone numbers and meetings with fat Greek women in embroidered "djellabas" and overweight Syrians who look at you with pity — not because they think you foolish to believe in the powers of exorcism, but because they sympathise with you that you should need their services.

In Egypt, exorcism is strictly forbidden, both by the civil and by the religious authorities. The police distrust it, seeing it as a way of hoodwinking people to part with their money. The imams condemn it, since its power comes from hidden and hostile

places. Incidentally, you should be careful never to take flight in a room where there is water; the fear will open up a breach in your soul and the impure demons will enter into you."

As he talks, Mahmoud unwinds a long green thread and ties one end round the wrist of the woman who has asked to be exorcised. She says her husband has left her because of a curse put on her by his family. The other end of the long piece of string trails off into the apartment. A child, a small boy 6 or 7-year-old is playing with his tricycle and making a lot of noise. All around, people are drinking tea and talking about the weather. If it were not for the clouds of incense billowing out from a tripod, it could be a family gathering in any middle-class neighbourhood.

"Now," says Mahmoud. "Put the items of evil in a pot. Put the paper, the cotton, the tooth, the hair in a pot, fill it with sand and cover the sand with the ashes of the burnt money. Then you must go to the bank of the Nile, take a boat and, when you reach the middle of the river, throw the pot into the water. Only then will you be free from the evil spell ... And your husband will come back to you, more in love with you than ever."

The woman nods, entranced. She already seems calmer, and buoyed up by a deep faith she looks quite handsome.

Even the most skeptical onlooker is shaken. The objects — the paper, the cotton, the tooth and the hair — were far too large to have been contained inside the eggs. In any case, the eggs had been carefully examined beforehand, and everyone had agreed they seemed to be normal in every respect. And when the exorcism reached its climax, Mahmoud himself was at least 15 feet away from the woman and the eggs.

"What is there to question?" said the exorcist. "In this world, there are many things that men do not understand. Even educated men. Especially educated men."

He picks up a copy of the Koran, slips a key in between the pages and closes it tightly with an elastic band. "Come," he says to Sind, a woman who has been the most mocking member of the audience. "Slide your finger into the ring of the key. You will see with your own eyes that the Koran will answer



A woman seeking exorcism has been instructed to bring a plate of eggs for use in the ceremony.

you. Is this woman happy?" he murmurs. "If she is happy, turn to the right."

Slowly, moved by what appears to be some hidden force, the book pivots on the key and turns to the left. Sind lets out a cry and drops the book. "Don't be afraid," says Mahmoud, putting her finger back into the key. "Has someone cast a spell on this woman? If the answer is yes, turn to the left." The Koran turns slowly to the left. Sind shakes her head in disbelief and fury. "You don't believe it?" says Mahmoud. "You love a man who does not love you, although he pretends to. But your greatest problem is your son, who is very unhappy at this moment."

"Who told you all this?" demands Sind, clearly upset.

"Come with me." She obeys and follows Mahmoud into an adjoining room. In her hand, she takes three eggs, covered with symbols.

Mahmoud prays intensely, reciting a breathless and incomprehensible litany.

"Place the eggs on the ground," he says suddenly, in an urgent tone. Sind puts the eggs on a plate which the owner of the apartment has hurriedly brought the exorcist. "Break the eggs!" cries Mahmoud. The sound of crunching egg-shells indicates that Sind has done as he bids.

The only other sound is the click of the camera of photographer Jean Claude who is hoping to capture the moment of exorcism on film.

"But what's this?" moans Sind, her hands covered with

a mess of yolks and white, from which emerges a big blackish clot, far bigger than an egg. With admirable composure, Sind turns it over and over in her hands, examines it and unfolds it. It is in fact a piece of paper, perhaps parchment, covered with mysterious symbols and enclosing a piece of cloth covered with yellow and red stains. The stench it gives off is overwhelming.

"Now you are liberated from your hopeless love ... and your son is safe," intones Mahmoud.

The lights, which had been dimmed, are turned back on again. Everything is back to normal. The haj lights a cigarette. Jean Claude puts away his camera, disappointed at having been unable to persuade the exorcist to pose for a photograph.

"It's useless," Mahmoud had said. "You would have found nothing on your film."

Sind has reverted to being a sophisticated woman, the habitue of intellectual circles in London, Paris and Cairo. People are once again speaking about the weather.

The evidence of the spells has been disposed of in the bathroom. The Greek woman laughs, well pleased. "What a stink!" she exclaims.

The smell — indescribable because it is unlike any other — lingers on, cloying and nauseating, the only thing that remains to remind us that this bizarre Egyptian exorcism really happened —

World News Link.

Englishman's castle

seeks new owner

By Charlotte Cooper
Reuter

ESHER, England — Looking for your perfect home? Ever thought of turning a ruin into your dream castle?

New is your chance — some of Britain's historic buildings are up for sale.

For a mere £450,000 (\$860,000) you could be the proud owner of Waynflete Tower, a 15th century house in Esher on the southwest outskirts of London.

As owner you would be in good company — for Waynflete tower formed a leafy riverside retreat in the 1500s for England's King Henry VIII, famed for his six wives, and a trust for his spinster Queen Elizabeth I and her lover, according to its estate agents.

"Dong up" and old house was popular with Britons when property boomed in the 1980s but hundreds of historically important houses across the country still urgently need renovation, according to the charity group Save Britain's Heritage.

Save campaigns for the preservation and reuse of historic buildings it considers important to Britain's heritage. It recently published a report called nobody's home detailing some 150 derelict places in need of rescue.

"This is the tip of the iceberg,"

Clare Norman, the report's author, said at Save's office in Battersea, London.

Catalogued with Waynflete Tower are countless old churches, mansions, an 1880 railway station decorated with Victorian iron work and a 400-year-old

barn.

The charity has published similar reports before and managed to rescue some buildings.

Andrew Blagden of Hamptons Estate Agents in Esher said that during the 1980s housing boom

everybody wanted to "do up" property. "If you ploughed £100,000 (\$190,000 at present rates) into a house — wisely — you would probably sell it two years on for a £200,000 profit."

Now the property market has slumped and historic homes are harder to sell — especially the less attractive buildings.

The conversion took two years and required the present Queen Elizabeth's permission because the building was once a church. The queen is titular head of the Church of England.

Now St Oswald's is up for sale for £200,000 (\$477,800). Grant has found a retirement project — a house he wants to restore in the ancient Italian town of Assisi.

Blagden says there will always be demand for unusual property in good condition. "I've even sold Victorian water towers," he adds.

Why do the British love to convert old places? Hard to say, but Save's Norman said: "We're not a great nation of modernists who want to live in a wacky modern house."

"It's nice to think you've taken something and made it better and kept it for future generations," she added.

Said Blagden: "People love to be surrounded with history and charm, and the fact that they bang their head every night when they go through a low door — it's all just part of living in an old house."

U.K. teenagers are not rebels like their parents

By Peter Millership
Reuter

LONDON — British teenagers are more interested in making money than rebelling against the establishment and espousing great causes, according to a survey by one of Britain's top banks.

It found that teenagers generally shun walking on the wild side of life like many of their parents did in the era of the Beatles, the mini-skirt and a string of writers called "The Angry Young Men."

"They reject teenage icons and stereotyping, and unlike their parents' youth generation there are no rebels and very few causes," said Frank Wilson, youth marketing manager of the Trustee Savings Bank (TSB).

TSB sought the opinions of youngsters who entered their teens during the 11-year premiership of Margaret Thatcher — high priestess of thrift, hard work and self-help.

The bank discovered a "common sense" generation of teenagers who want to be independent and frequently use cash rather than drift into credit.

The survey of 2,700 school-leavers interviewed told us being in control of their money gave them greater self-confidence to tackle life in the adult world," said Wilson.

"Teenagers recognise that they are part of a do-it-yourself society," Wilson said. "They want to stand on their own two feet and do not expect state hand-outs as a matter of course."

Profits of Credit Suisse fall by third

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Credit Suisse, Switzerland's third-largest commercial bank, has posted a 31 per cent drop group net profit in 1990.

Net profit fell to million Swiss francs (\$399 million) last year from 783 million francs (\$580 million) in 1989, the bank said.

Consequently, Credit Suisse said it would propose cutting its dividend on 1990 earnings. It didn't specify how much.

The bank attributed the drop in net profit to a sharp decline in earnings from securities trading.

Credit Suisse Chairman Robert Jeker described the decline as exceptional, and forecast that 1991 earnings would return to the "good levels we achieved in 1989."

Cash flow of Credit Suisse, a unit of C.S. Holding was down 20 per cent last year at 1.18 billion francs (\$1.09 billion).

Atari may build computers in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S.-based Atari Corp. plans to invest \$150 million to make personal computers and electronic games in Israel, sorely needed to help the country absorb an influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

This is a breakthrough in foreign investment," ministry director-general Zvi Koren told Israel radio.

But he said the Atari proposal depended on the establishment of factories to make parts for the Atari products, such as printed circuit boards and software, and serve other computer and electronic firms.

Such a support network would cost \$75 to \$100 million, the ministry said. Koren said the cabinet could discuss the investment proposal as soon as next week.

The government is not giving more money. It is giving guarantees for loans. If the industry is successful, then it will not cost the government anything. In the event the industry fails, the government will share the losses," he

Atari's investment would be \$150 million and the plant's projected sales would be \$150 million a year, the ministry said. It would initially employ 600 people increasing to 1,000 within five years.

Atari's plan to transfer some operations from Taiwan to Israel indicates it wants to use Israel's free trade agreement with the European Community. To qualify for duty-free trade, the product must include Israeli-made parts.

The ministry believes the related industries would employ 2,000 people and have an export potential of \$300 million to \$500 million.

Orders for factory goods fell in February for the fourth straight month, the government said Tuesday. Analysts said the 0.5 per cent drop was another sign that the manufacturing sector remained in a recession.

"Certainly, in this series of numbers, there doesn't seem to be any sign of a trough or bottom in the recession," said Gilbert Benz, an economist with the Swiss Bank Corp. in New York.

The Commerce Department said orders for durable and non-durable goods fell to \$233.2 billion after shrinking 1.6 per cent a month earlier. Factory orders

have not risen since peaking at \$255.0 billion last October. Benz said he was concerned not only that "big-ticket" durable orders fell, but also that orders for non-durable goods including apparel and household goods declined.

"There doesn't seem to be any demand by businesses or consumers at this point," he said.

Orders for durable goods — big-ticket items ranging from cars to computers expected to last more than three years — slipped 0.3 per cent to \$117.5 billion. It was the third decline in the last four months, including a 2.0 per cent drop in January.

Orders for non-durable products fell for the fourth straight month, down 0.8 per cent to \$115.8 billion after a 1.1 per cent decline in January.

And orders for non-defence capital goods, often a barometer of business plans to expand and modernize, slipped 0.7 per cent following an 11.9 per cent plunge a month earlier.

"When aircraft orders are excluded from non-defence capital goods, the decline was an even more severe 3.9 per cent," said Marilyn Schaja, an economist with Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette Securities Corp. in New York.

Forbes also ranks 500 companies by sales, profits, assets and market value. To distinguish itself from Fortune, it does a composite ranking across all categories to determine the "super 50."

On the composite list, General Electric Co. replaced G.M. as Forbes' "most powerful" com-

Recession eats at Fortune 500 corporations

NEW YORK (AP) — The recession dogged the U.S. biggest companies last year, but General Motors Corp. (G.M.) stayed no. 1 despite \$2 billion in losses, Fortune magazine said in its annual list of 500 top corporations.

A competing ranking by Forbes magazine of what it calls the "most powerful" American companies ignored G.M. entirely because the automaker didn't make any money in 1990.

The weakened economy was the dominant theme in the rankings. Fortune said half of the 50 largest industrial companies on its list lost money or earned less. Overall, Fortune 500 profits fell 11.7 per cent, even though sales rose 6.1 per cent.

G.M. with over \$126 billion in revenues, retained the top spot despite a 0.8 per cent drop in sales. Ford Motor Co. slipped to no. 3 and Chrysler Corp. tumbled three spots to no. 11, reflecting a sour performance by the auto industry.

Fortune bases its list on total sales and rates only industrial companies. The magazine also compiles separate rankings of the companies by profits, assets, stockholder equity and other financial indicators.

Exxon Corp. rose to second place in sales on the Fortune list. Completing the top 10 were International Business Machines Corp. (IBM), Mobil Corp., General Electric Co., Philip Morris Cos., Texaco Inc., Dupont and Chevron Corp.

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Experts find key substance for blood clotting

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists have discovered a protein that plays a key role in blood clotting, an advance that could lead to new medicines for preventing heart attacks and strokes.

The protein binds to a natural substance called Thrombin as the initial step in producing blood clots, which can cause heart attacks and strokes when they block blood vessels.

The discovery was reported Friday in the journal *Cell* by researchers at the University of California, San Francisco. Further research may lead to new medicines that block formation of blood clots without the side effects of current drugs, study co-author Dr. Shaun Coughlin said.

The scientists reported that they had isolated the genetic material that lets cells produce the protein, called a Thrombin receptor. The receptor sits on the surface of blood cells called Platelets.

Thrombin, which is produced by blood vessels in response to injury, binds to this Receptor. That makes platelets clump together, which is the initial step in clot formation. Coughlin said in a telephone interview.

The scientists showed that the newfound protein made cells respond to Thrombin. "We are telling them to go back home and exploit their own women and children," he said in an interview.

By Anne Dastakian
Reuter

PRAGUE — President Václav Havel and his wife Olga are trying to help stave off the collapse of Czechoslovakia's state health system.

Havel last month donated \$130,000 of his own money — foreign royalties from plays and prizes he has collected over the past year — to the Czech and Slovak regional health ministries to help them buy drugs they cannot afford.

His wife runs a charity goodwill foundation, on whose behalf she frequently accepts gifts from abroad of much-needed medical equipment and drugs intended for use in the hospital treatment of children.

Those effects include causing production of another protein that discourages clot formation, he said. Normally that anti-clot action appears to be important in regulating Thrombin's effects, although its importance in blocking clots that lead to strokes and heart attacks is not known, he said.

mical makeup of the protein.

Drugs that block the binding of Thrombin to the receptor may be able to prevent formation of clots with fewer side effects than current Thrombin-inhibiting medications, Coughlin said. That is because such drugs would not block beneficial effects of Thrombin that do not require the receptor, he said.

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The Thrombin receptor also appears on smooth muscle cells that line blood vessels and play a role in atherosclerosis, a narrowing of the passageway for blood within arteries that sets the stage for heart attacks and strokes. Thrombin stimulates growth of the cells.

Doctors often treat atherosclerosis by removing the bumpy plaques on the inside of the blood vessels. But sometimes the arteries become narrowed again because of growth of the smooth muscle cells. The new finding may aid research into this process, Coughlin said.

The scientists showed that the newfound protein made cells respond to Thrombin. "We are telling them to go back home and exploit their own women and children," he said in an interview.

By Alistair McIntosh
Reuter

BANGKOK — Thailand's new military-installed government is declaring war on the country's infamous sex industry and the spread of the deadly AIDS virus.

"Sex tourists are no longer welcome here," declared veteran social reformer Mechai Viravadya, minister of the prime minister's office in the new cabinet.

"We are telling them to go back home and exploit their own women and children," he said in an interview.

Czechoslovakia is beginning a two-year radical reform of health care, giving patients the right to choose their own doctors and introducing paid health insurance.

It will replace a corrupt and demoralised — but free — system left over by the country's former Communist government.

However, medical facilities are coming under increasing strain. The health service faces acute financial problems and a chronic lack of some drugs, too expensive to be bought abroad since the devaluation of the crown currency last year.

Many low-paid doctors managed under the Communist system to augment their incomes by black market work.

They would like to bring this into the open by having private practices.

"People can't afford a paying health care before health insurance is introduced" in 1992 Czech Regional Health Minister Martin Bojar told Reuters in an interview.

Bojar recently said prescription charges will probably go up from a token one crown (3.5 cents) to five crowns (18 cents), hospital care will be charged at 30 crowns (\$1.07) a day and abortions, currently free and available almost on demand, will cost 3,000 crowns (\$110), slightly less than the average monthly wage.

A 44-year-old highly respected psychiatrist and

neurologist, Bojar was appointed health minister for the Czech Republic last June.

Energetic and much in demand, he will even give interviews in his car en route to answer questions in the Czech parliament rather than cancel a chance to expound his views.

Bojar says Czechoslovakia's state-run health service is not quite as devastated as, for example, Romania's. But charity is encouraged and foreign help welcomed as twin pillars to prop up the tottering system.

The parents of a four-year-old child, Patrik Polansky, recently appealed through the media for money that could buy him a liver transplant, an operation that can

not be performed in Czechoslovakia.

Bojar said the end of the state monopoly on medicine, free choice of one's doctor and allowing the partly private practice of doctors should stimulate health care.

He cites the Canadian and Dutch health systems as models for the reforms he is trying to implement. By 1992, medicine will be financed jointly by insurance, local authorities and the state.

But there is much to be done in the meantime. Czechoslovakia has one of the highest numbers of medical personnel per capita in Europe, but hospitals are inefficient.

Nurses often have to perform tasks carried out by

unskilled staff in other countries and doctor's duties include some that in the West are considered nurses' jobs.

Bojar's budget this year, to provide comprehensive health care for around 10 million people, is 28 billion crowns (\$1 billion), eight per cent more than in 1990.

But officials in his ministry estimate that about half the total amount will be needed to compensate for the higher cost of drugs and equipment following the freeing of price controls which came into effect at the beginning of this year.

The budget will have to be revised every three months so that funds can be directed to the most urgent needs, they say.

Thailand's new rulers declare war on AIDS, sex industry

By Alistair McIntosh
Reuter

BANGKOK — Thailand's new military-installed government is declaring war on the country's infamous sex industry and the spread of the deadly AIDS virus.

"Sex tourists are no longer welcome here," declared veteran social reformer Mechai Viravadya, minister of the prime minister's office in the new cabinet.

"We are telling them to go back home and exploit their own women and children," he said in an interview.

Thousands of foreign men — mainly from Western Europe, Australia, the United States and Japan — flock to Thailand every year in search of cheap sex. They don't have to look far.

Sleazy bars and massage parlours abound in the capital, Bangkok, and one Western resident described the Thai resort of Pattaya as "Sodom and Gomorrah by the sea."

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, whose administration was installed by a military junta which took power in a February coup,

has described prostitution and AIDS as Thailand's biggest social problem.

Some estimates put the number of women working as prostitutes as high as 700,000. Others say there are 200,000 child prostitutes.

The Public Health Ministry estimates 200,000 people throughout Thailand are infected with the virus which causes the deadly acquired immune deficiency syndrome, spread through sexual contact or drug addicts sharing needles.

A United Nations official has said that Thailand, with

nearly 60 million people, faces a "tragedy of devastating power" if it does not do more to stem the spread of AIDS.

Mechai said one of the main ways the government would tackle prostitution would be to discourage new recruits to the world's oldest profession.

Local companies were already being approached to provide jobs for girls from poor families who might otherwise turn to selling their bodies, Mechai said.

He said further details of the anti-prostitution cam-

paign would be presented shortly to the new National Assembly.

"But no one should doubt we are very, very serious about this," he said.

Tourism is the nation's biggest foreign currency earner but Mechai, who is also chairman of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, said it did not need money from sex-hungry men.

But he made it clear it was not just foreigners the new administration wanted to discourage.

"We also want to work on the attitude of the Thai

male," he said.

"We want to educate Thai women so they will no longer be so tolerant when their men go off to sex places."

Prime Minister Anan, addressing a gathering of poor and handicapped Thais at government house last week, said that every day 450,000 Thai men visited prostitutes and half of them did not use condoms.

Mechai, Thailand's leading anti-AIDS campaigner before his cabinet appointment, said Thailand would face a huge programme of education about the virus.

Livestock threat spawns unlikely alliance

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — An ugly blue-green fly that feeds on flesh and can cause death to both animals and humans has inadvertently prompted the cooperation of two unlikely partners — Libya and the United States.

The New World Screwworm, so called because it is a native of the Americas, has alarmed health and agricultural officials by making an appearance on the other side of the Atlantic. A little over two years ago, the insect was discovered in Libya. Its trademark was unmistakable: gaping wounds in livestock and in some cases in humans. Not for nothing is the pest known in Latin as the *cocciomyia hominivora* — a devourer of man.

Agricultural experts knew they had to act quickly. The screwworm, which unlike some other flies attacks only living creatures, breeds with great rapidity and can spread at an alarming rate. An average fly can lay 400 eggs in just 15 minutes. If it remained unchecked, said experts, the insect could establish itself throughout the entire African continent, as well as in the Middle East, Asia and parts of southern Europe.

But a major hurdle faced development aid officials in their battle to stop the spread of the insect population. The only effective way of eradi-

cating the screwworm is the so-called Sterile Insect Technique, a system which involves unleashing millions of sterile male flies into the environment, so they will mate with normal females, whose eggs will in turn be sterile.

The technique was developed by a U.S. scientist more than 30 years ago, and to this day the only producer of the sterile male flies is a jointly owned American-Mexican company in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico. And there was the catch. Under rules imposed by former U.S. President Ronald Reagan there is a strict ban on American goods being sold to Libya, and Libya doesn't talk to the U.S."

In the end, the good offices of the FAO prevailed, and arrangements were made for both sides to make provisional alterations to their respective laws governing imports and exports. Dr. Cunningham and his team acted as go-betweens. Now, with the diplomatic tussles over, the programme is finally under way. Each week, tens of millions of sterile male flies are flown in a chartered airplane from Mexico City to Tripoli to be released over Libya.

The operation is planned with military precision. The flies, bombarded with massive doses of radiation in the Mexico production plant, are flown over in the larval stage, packed in specially-built boxes. At Tripoli, the unusual cargo is transferred to refrigerated trailers.

"At this point, they are heated in containers to a temperature of 27 degrees centigrade until they emerge as adult flies," said Dr. Cunningham. "Then they are loaded into light aircraft and sent out on special bombing missions. The planes are

equipped with chutes to distribute the boxes, and these are designed to self-destruct on impact with the air-stream. The flies are released and they get down to work."

Dr. Cunningham, the Irish-born director of the FAO's Screwworm Emergency Centre for North Africa, has just returned to his Rome office from a trip to Libya to see the programme in operation. At present, the flies are being released at a rate of 800 per square kilometre, a ratio which will more than double by the time the project gets under full swing in April.

The programme is coordinated by a multi-national team, including staff from the U.S.-Mexican plant which produces the flies. Their work is backed up by a crew of 400 Libyans who monitor progress and carry out checks on the livestock.

The effects of the screwworm were first discovered in the French penal colony of Devil's Island in 1855. A military doctor noted that a large festering wound on the face of one of the convicts was caused by the larvae that had hatched from the screwworm fly. The Caribbean and South American have always been the traditional strongholds of the fly, which experts describe as the most destructive insect known to man.

Massive eradication programmes using the sterile insect technique had wiped the screwworm out in Mexico and North America by the beginning of the 1980s, though it still remains entrenched in certain parts of the south of the continent and the Caribbean.

Slightly larger than a housefly, and not unlike a bluebottle in appearance, the screwworm fly differs in that it only feeds on live flesh — not on dead meat like most of its cousins. The female fly lays its eggs wherever there is an opening in the skin — in insect bites, scratches or in man-made wounds caused by shearing, branding or castration. The maggots which hatch out bore into the flesh, turning a small nick into an ugly and dangerous wound in a very short time.

Fully grown cattle can die in just a few days and hu-

mans, especially old people and infants, are also at risk, the dangers are even higher in countries where health care is inadequate and organisms are already weakened by malnourishment. "It's an extremely destructive insect," said Dr. Cunningham. "It creates gaping wounds very quickly and the odor given off then attracts more flies, which lay more eggs. It's really a terrible affliction. If untreated, it can be fatal."

The wounds can be treated with powders, and animals can be disinfected with pesticides, but the costs are high. FAO officials have estimated it would cost \$10 a year to prevent each animal from being infected. If precautions weren't taken soon enough, and Libya's seven million head of livestock were to be contaminated, treatment would cost at least \$28 million a year, they have calculated.

But the greatest risk is that the insect could spread to other parts of the African continent. Once that happened, the plague would be out of control, say experts. "Even if it just spread to the five countries of North Africa it would cost about \$280 million a year to treat," said Dr. Cunningham. "If it spread to sub-Saharan and tropical Africa, the costs would be incalculable."

"It has been a very big economic burden on the Libyans. They have spent millions of dollars treating the animals and imposing quarantines," he added. "Libya can live with it, because it is a rich country and because livestock is not central to its economy, but that's certainly not the case with Chad, Sudan, Niger and all the other central African countries. That's why our real concern is to stamp it out before it gets out of Libya. Once it did, it would become uncontrollable and the losses would be enormous, not just in terms of livestock, but to Africa's wildlife population and even to humans."

The infected area in Libya is a 25,000-square-kilometre strip that stretches along the coast 150 kilometres either side of Tripoli. To the west, it comes close to the Tunisian border, where a red alert has

been declared. "If it spread to Tunisia it would be a disaster, especially to Tunisia's sheep population which plays an important role in the economy," said Dr. Cunningham. "We have started a FAO programme, together with the Tunisians, to alert livestock owners and veterinary authorities to the dangers, and we have also set up a parallel inspection programme. There is a very strict quarantine in operation, and Tunisia has banned the import of livestock from Libya until the emergency is over."

It is still not clear just how the screwworm made its trans-Atlantic journey to Libya from the American continent, but FAO officials say the most probable route was via a shipment of infected livestock. "We have traced four shipments that came into Libya from South America during 1988 (the year the fly was first discovered)," said Dr. Cunningham. "But given that there are a great many shipments of livestock to the Middle East from South America each year it is surprising it has not happened before."

The Middle East would be the next port of call for the screwworm, if steps were not taken to halt it in its tracks, says Dr. Cunningham. From there, it would spread quickly to Asia. Traveling northwards from Libya, it could easily take hold in parts of France, Spain and Italy, he said. "Any further north than that and it gets too cold. The screwworm likes warm climates."

In tandem with the eradication programme, the FAO team has organised courses in Libya to train agricultural officials from Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Chad, Sudan and Niger on how to recognise the first signs of the fly's presence and how to set up quarantine measures to isolate any outbreaks. Later, a second course will be arranged for officials from African countries further away, nations that are considered the second line of defence in the screwworm battle. Other staff are engaged in distributing leaflets to the Libyan population to explain the programme to them and to reassure them over the presence of sudden swarms of flies and strange-looking flies floating down from the skies.

The total cost of the project is pegged at \$55 million per year. The Libyan contribution will be \$25 million in cash and in kind, most of it spent on maintaining the 400-strong inspection taskforce. The rest of the funding will come from aid agencies and foreign donations. FAO officials estimate it will probably take two years



Powders are one of the remedies being used to treat wounds caused by the screwworm fly.



King

(Continued from page 1)

right and this is our responsibility, the responsibility of all Jordanians who are concerned about mankind and about the world environment."

"I believe that it was possible to avert war and to solve the crisis peacefully and I believe that the peoples of the world respect Jordan's stand, but those who misunderstand Jordan's position have been victims of lies and falsehoods fabricated against this country," the King said.

"Sooner or later matters will clear up, and then these people will feel guilty for adopting such attitudes towards Jordan," he said.

"Jordanians will continue to have their heads raised high despite the dimension of the suffering they face," the King said.

In Bonn, German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher described the King's visit as important and said it helped to clear matters for the European Council meeting scheduled for April 8.

The German Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying that Germany and Jordan agree that the present opportunity for peace should not be missed.

During his visit to France, King Hussein discussed the consequence of the Gulf war on Jordan as well as the Arab-Israeli conflict.

According to Petra, the French and Jordanian sides agreed to work together at the regional and international levels to find solutions for the Middle East question.

The King was accompanied on the visit by Royal Court Chief Sheriff Zeid Ben Shaker, Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

France

(Continued from page 1)

could not endorse such a failure," he said.

Mr. Mitterrand, who has called for a Kurdish settlement to be part of a comprehensive Middle East peace, supported the Kurds' demands for autonomy. He said they entitled to their own identity, language and culture within existing borders.

Mr. Duman said Paris had protested to President Saddam Hussein through the Soviet Union which represents Iraqi interests since Baghdad severed relations during the Gulf war.

He said France had started and would continue giving Kurds humanitarian aid through countries bordering Iraq.

The 12 European Community governments Wednesday denounced Iraq's handling of the rebellions as brutal and said only dialogue could unify the country.

"The community and its member states are very deeply concerned at the situation of the civilian population in Iraq, notably the Kurds and the Shiites," the governments said in a joint statement.

"They firmly condemn the brutal repression being imposed upon these population groups, bringing about a flow of refugees towards the neighbouring countries," it added.

Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher urged the British government to send emergency humanitarian aid to help Kurdish refugees.

After meeting Kurdish exiles, Mrs. Thatcher said Kurds trapped on the Turkish border needed urgent help.

"It should not be beyond the wit of man to get planes there with tents, with food and with warm blankets," she said.

"I think we should take very firm steps. It is not a question of standing on legal niceties. We should go now," Mrs. Thatcher said, speaking to reporters.

The United States promised Wednesday to urgently consider humanitarian aid for Iraqi refugees once a Gulf war ceasefire resolution was approved by the United Nations Security Council.

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering has been instructed, immediately following passage of the ceasefire resolution, to pursue, on an urgent basis, Security Council action to address these pressing concerns," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tuerk told reporters.

She did not commit Washington to any specific course of action other than humanitarian assistance but said: "We want to find the most effective means for the United Nations to express its condemnation of the brutality taking place in Iraq and its determination to do what it can to address this situation."

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata demanded Wednesday that Turkey open its borders for fleeing Kurds.

Resolution

(Continued from page 1)

not our purpose. It never was our purpose."

"I do not want to see us get sucked into the internal struggle in Iraq," Mr. Bush said, adding that he did not want "to commit our men and our women to further combat."

"We've done the heavy lifting," Mr. Bush said.

In Jupiter, Florida, President George Bush said he was increasingly frustrated by reports of the violence in Iraq and said he would be willing to take a "new look" at relations with Baghdad if Iraq's army overthrew President Saddam.

"I would be willing to take a new look if the army took matters into its own hands," Mr. Bush told reporters as he was ending a four-day holiday in Florida.

Erbil firmly back in government hands

By Wafa Amr
The Associated Press

ERBIL, Iraq — The smoke of battle still drifted in the air Tuesday and bodies were still lying in the streets patrolled by Republican Guards.

Erbil was back in the hands of the Iraqi army, which seemed to be on its way to recapturing northern Iraq after quelling the rebellion against the government of President Saddam Hussein in the south.

There was the distant sound of gunfire and artillery. But Erbil police chief Qassem Al Duri told reporters the exchange "was far away from Erbil in the mountains where the Iraqi army was driving out the remaining rebels."

Foreign journalists toured the ancient Kurdish city of Erbil, about 500 kilometers north of Baghdad, Tuesday, three days after the Iraqi army took over the city from Kurdish rebels.

Erbil was almost deserted except for the army and some families who were returning to their homes after having fled the fighting. Families in traditional Kurdish costumes carried what belongings they had and walked back home.

The army seemed in complete control of the city that had been in the hands of Kurdish rebels since March 11.

"The Kurdish militias ended Kurdistan's self-rule at 7 a.m. on March 11. They carried machine guns, rocket launchers and light weapons. They fired from rooftops," said Tawfiq Oweiz, a Kurdish resident.

He said they killed many ruling Baath Party members and their families.

Qassem Kurdi, a government employee, said he was "terrorized by the inhumane actions of the rebels. They rounded up families and shot them."

Mr. Duri, the chief of police said, "the rebels killed families and seized their houses to use as headquarters."

The rebels have accused the Iraqi troops of committing atrocities against innocent civilians and against Kurds in the north and Shiites in the north that they suspected of taking part in the rebellion.

Foreign reporters unable to cover most of the fighting cannot verify any of the claims independently.

Mr. Duri said the rebels included about 20 different political groups, however their aims were not clear.

"Their aims were contradictory. They were not sure what they wanted to achieve and whenever residents approached them with their demands, they were confused and did not know how to respond," he said.

However, a Kurd who spoke on condition of anonymity said the 800,000 Kurds in Iraqi Kurdistan "wanted a change in the government."

The chief of police said most of the rebels were army deserters, ex-criminals, outlaws and brain-washed kids. They all came from the Iranian border, he said.

Army tanks and soldiers were camped on the city's outskirts. A pile of seized weapons were guarded by Iraqi soldiers. More than 100 pro-government Kurdish militiamen were also camped at the city's entrance.

Traces of the battle were evident on the outskirts of the city. There were burned army tanks and trucks, scores of soldiers at checkpoints. There was smoke in the air.

At the city's entrance, in front of what seemed to be an army base, four Kurdish men were held prisoner with their hands tied behind their backs. They were surrounded by soldiers waiting.

Inside Erbil, both anti-government and pro-government slogans covered the walls. Shop windows were broken, schools were destroyed and ashes covered the ground. All government buildings were destroyed and burned.

The rebels started with schools and government buildings, said one soldier.

There were a dozen dead bodies, some bloated and others burned, still lying in the streets.

A helicopter flew over the city as well as an American fighter plane that flew very low.

The police station in Erbil seemed to serve as the Iraqi Communist Party's headquarters before the army entered. The hammer and sickle symbol were drawn on a wall in red and, also in red, the words "Iraqi Communist Headquarters" was painted above the door.

Army trucks carried Kurds returning to their homes. One soldier said Iraqi military helicopters threw leaflets advising Erbil residents to leave the city before the army entered.

"We did not want to harm the citizens," the soldier said.

The Republican Guards, all very young men, roamed the city streets.

"We fought in Kuwait and now we have come from Karbala and Kirkuk. We drove rebels out completely," said one Republican Guard.

Another said it took them two days to recapture the city.

"It was an easy task," he said.

The United States promised Wednesday to urgently consider humanitarian aid for Iraqi refugees once a Gulf war ceasefire resolution was approved by the United Nations Security Council.

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering has been instructed, immediately following passage of the ceasefire resolution, to pursue, on an urgent basis, Security Council action to address these pressing concerns," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tuerk told reporters.

She did not commit Washington to any specific course of action other than humanitarian assistance but said: "We want to find the most effective means for the United Nations to express its condemnation of the brutality taking place in Iraq and its determination to do what it can to address this situation."

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata demanded Wednesday that Turkey open its borders for fleeing Kurds.

(Continued from page 1)

not our purpose. It never was our purpose."

"I do not want to see us get sucked into the internal struggle in Iraq," Mr. Bush said, adding that he did not want "to commit our men and our women to further combat."

"We've done the heavy lifting," Mr. Bush said.

In Jupiter, Florida, President George Bush said he was increasingly frustrated by reports of the violence in Iraq and said he would be willing to take a "new look" at relations with Baghdad if Iraq's army overthrew President Saddam.

"I would be willing to take a new look if the army took matters into its own hands," Mr. Bush told reporters as he was ending a four-day holiday in Florida.

Ramadan: A month to affirm one's faith

By Giles Tredale

One night in the year 601, a middle-aged merchant by the name of Mohammad was sitting, in pensive mood, in a cave on a hill just outside of Mecca, as was his wont, when he heard a voice amid a sound of clanging bells calling him to; "Recite in the name of your Lord...."

This exhortation to proclaim God's message, which marks the birth of Islam as a religion and proved to be the first of many that the unlettered merchant from Mecca was to receive, came in the Arabic month of Ramadan.

Fourteen years later Mohammad and his 300 followers, invigorated by their new faith, defeated a 1,000-strong force of

Meccans at a village called Badr, some 300 kilometers north of Mecca. This success, which was to prove to be Islam's first and decisive military victory, also took place in the auspicious month of Ramadan.

The divine call to Mohammad and the earthly victory at Badr, both taking place in the month of Ramadan, marked out that month as special in the eyes of those early Muslims. Ramadan was thus declared as holy and was set aside as a month in which Muslims should affirm their faith by fasting.

From sunrise until sunset in Ramadan nothing should pass between the lips of a Muslim, in-

cluding all food, liquids, tobacco products and even chewing gum, and Muslims should refrain from sexual intercourse. Time should be given instead to greater religious reflection, praying and reading from the Koran.

Growing children, pregnant and nursing mothers, soldiers on duty, and the chronically sick are, however, exempt from fasting. For the rest the daylight fast, particularly if the weather is hot, is an exacting duty. Temperatures often grow shorter in this month and the energy levels of fasters decrease, thereby accounting for a slower, more muted pace of life.

Like the common performance of worship, and the pilgrimage to Mecca, the Ramadan fast unifies all Muslims from every part of the world.

the cannon sounds from the high walls of the citadel. Having been relatively drowsy throughout the day, Cairo awakens after the iftar and the revelries and festivities begin. The narrow lanes in and around Midan Hussein, near Khan Al Khalili, are particularly lively and colourful during Ramadan, including wandering bands of musicians, magicians (the gala galab) men) and a whole host of other street entertainers.

Ramadan is a particularly colourful affair. The traditional symbol of the holy month is the multi-coloured glass lantern, the tanour, which is hung and sold on many streets all over the city. The bright lights and merriment kindle an even greater feeling of goodwill among Egyptians towards strangers.

A foreigner who wishes his Muslim friend or acquaintance a happy holiday, by saying koul sana ma tayib (every year may you be well), will undoubtedly be showered with thanks and gratitude.

The merrymaking often goes on all night up until the final meal, suhoor, before the pre-dawn prayer which will mark the beginning of the new day's fast.

Ramadan is celebrated all over the Middle East and even beyond.

Coming on the heels of a major war in the region which has seen the Arab World bitterly divided, the holy month could prove even more significant than usual — Middle East Times.

Al Raiyan

By E. Yaghi

WHEN Ramadan begins, the gates of paradise are opened, the gates of hell are closed and the devils are chained. On the Day of Resurrection, all those who observed fasting will enter through a gate of paradise called Al Raiyan. Only those who observed the fasts will enter this gate and after their entry, the gate will be closed and entry by others will be prohibited.

Although all practices of worship are for God, God singles out fasting as the only act truly performed for his sake; for fasting cannot be practised for the sake of showing off as nobody can know whether one is fasting or not except God. Therefore, fasting is a pure performance that cannot be blemished by hypocrisy.

Once again, Ramadan is upon us. It is a time of introspection and assessment of Islamic faith. In Islam, fasting is an abstention from things of material nature, such as food, drink, smoking, etc. in order to have spiritual joys and moral nourishment. While the Muslim empties his stomach, he fills his heart with love and sympathy, his spirit with piety and faith and his mind with wisdom and resolution.

The purpose of fasting in other religions and philosophies is invariably partial. It is either for spiritual aims or physical needs or intellectual cultivations but never for a combination of all the above factors. However, in Islam, fasting is for all these gains as well as for many other purposes such as social and economic, moral and humanitarian, private and public and inner as well as outer, all combined together.

Islamic fasting is often accompanied by extra devotion and worship, extra charity and study of the Holy Koran and extra self-discipline and conscience awakening. Fasting is not a retreat from life but a penetration with spiritual armaments, a moral enrichment. Fasting does not break the faithful but rather harmonizes his existence.

The occurrence of Ramadan fluctuates throughout the years because the Islamic calendar is based on lunar months which are in accordance with the va-

rious positions of the moon. This means that over a period of a number of years, Islamic fasting covers the 4 major seasons and circulates back and forth between summer and winter, fall and spring in a rotating manner. Hence, the Muslim experience of fasting on several levels and vibrant climates, sometimes in the winter of short and cold days, sometimes in the summer of long hot days and sometimes in between. During the month of Ramadan, the daily period of fasting starts before the break of dawn and ends immediately after sunset. Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam. Failure to observe it without a reasonable excuse is a punishable sin by God.

Fasting is compulsory for every Muslim male and female who is mentally and physically fit or sane and able. Any one who fasts must be full age. Children under this age should be encouraged to start fasting on easy levels so by the time they reach puberty, they will be mentally and physically able to fast.

Those who are exempted from fasting are then, children under age, the insane, the aged who cannot physically fast and the sick who may postpone their fast and make up for it at a later date when able. Expectant and nursing mothers may not fast if there is a danger to their health or their infants, but they must also make up for days missed. Fasting may also be performed by any person who is not fast.

Fasting is a shield. The fasting person should not behave foolishly and impudently. If someone fights with the fasting person or abuses him, he should tell the disturber twice, "I am fasting."

Fasting is an expiation of sins and a fulfillment of the spiritual factors that exists in the Holy month of Ramadan, the month in which the Holy Koran was sent down as a guide for mankind so that they could see the signs of clear guidance and be able to judge between right and wrong. Ramadan is a month of personal sacrifice and a striving to be nearer to God. To all those who fast, Mabruk Ramadan and May God accept your fasting!

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DAROTEL

Sports

Maradona retiring from soccer

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Is Diego Maradona's soccer career over?

"I've had enough. I'm tired of struggling. I'm retiring for good," the Argentine star, faced with a minimum six-month and maximum two-year international suspension for cocaine use, was quoted as saying in Wednesday's editions of the Milan newspaper *Corriere Della Sera*.

Maradona, the 30-year-old captain of Napoli of the Italian League and the Argentine national team, gave a brief interview Tuesday during a flight from Rome to Buenos Aires.

"Now I want to enjoy life. I want to enjoy my daughters," Maradona was quoted as saying.

Maradona left Italy as the disciplinary commission of the Italian League prepared to rule on his case. Italian League officials found traces of cocaine in his urine after Napoli's game against Bari on March 17.

Maradona and his business manager Marco Franchi have hinted — without offering proof — that the incident somehow is motivated by Argentina's victory over Italy in last year's World Cup semifinal and Maradona's desire to break his contract with Napoli.

"I'm certain that the clouds will be dispelled soon," Maradona said in a statement distributed in Rome Tuesday by the Italian

News Agency (ANSA). "I sincerely hope to return to soccer with a clean image which in vain some one is trying to alter."

After eluding reporters and photographers at Ezeiza International Airport, Maradona told them tersely at his parents' house, "enough was said on this issue in Italy. I have nothing to add."

There, he celebrated his daughter Dalma's fourth birthday. A TV camera caught him booting a tennis ball soccer-style against a wall and bouncing it off his head.

The Italian League's 11-judge disciplinary commission is set to rule Saturday on the length of Maradona's suspension. The suspension automatically will be extended worldwide by the Federal International Football Association or FIFA, soccer's governing body.

"We don't think we have to go into action on a big scale because of this case," FIFA General Secretary Joseph Blatter said in Zurich, Switzerland. "The reasons behind it probably have little to do with sports. If everything one reads is confirmed, it is a somewhat tragic case for him personally — and as a role model in soccer. But he hasn't been that for a while, because of his general behaviour."

Maradona's lawyer, Enzo Maria Siniscalchi, said he expects

the minimum penalty for Maradona because cocaine can't be considered performance-enhancing if taken several hours before a game.

According to the experts who tested Maradona's urine samples, he possibly took cocaine 18 to 30 hours before the Napoli-Bari match.

"We will not appeal the sentence if Maradona is given the minimum penalty," Siniscalchi was quoted as saying in Wednesday's editions of Milan's sports daily *Gazzetta dello Sport*.

Saturday's decision by the disciplinary commission can be appealed by Maradona's lawyer with the Federal Council, which would give a final sentence by mid-April.

Argentine sports commentators have wondered whether Maradona could return after a long absence. He has a chronic back problem, a damaged left ankle and a tendency to put on weight.

The fall from grace has been steep. He led Argentina to the 1986 World Cup title and was named the tournament's most valuable player. He led Napoli to its first league title in 10 years in 1987 and did it again last season. He then captained the Argentine national team that lost last summer's World Cup final 1-0 to West Germany.

"He has been the best soccer player in the world for 10 years. He can't end his career this way," said Vujadin Boskov, the Yugoslav coach of Italian League leader Sampdoria of Genoa.

Argentine fans remain loyal to the player they've idolized since he moved up to the national team at 15. But the government of President Carlos Menem, who made Maradona his "sports ambassador" last year, has not rallied to his defense.

The head of Argentina's anti-drug programme, Alberto Lestel, said in an interview broadcast by Radio Rivadavia that Maradona should resign for failing to set "an example... for the youths of this country and the world."

In recent months, Maradona has been beset by controversy. He has refused to practice and play for Napoli, been questioned by police investigating drug trafficking and prostitution or being named in a paternity suit.

"It is precisely soccer that is hurt the most," said Abilio D'Almeida of Brazil, a member of FIFA's Executive Committee. "People not connected with the sport will think that this is common, that it happens all the time."

"And it's worse because it involves a player of international renown. If he were a second- or third-rate player, no one would pay any attention."



Andre Agassi

Agassi, Sampras win in Orlando tournament

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Top-seeded Andre Agassi beat Brian Garrow 6-2, 6-4 and no. 4

Derrick Rostagno easily dismissed veteran Jimmy Connors 6-1, 6-2 in the Prudential Securities Classic Tennis Tournament.

In other first-round matches, second-seeded Pete Sampras needed only 53 minutes to dismiss Brad Pearce 6-2, 6-2 and defending champion Brad Gilbert came back from a sluggish start to defeat Chile's Pedro Rebollo 6-2, 6-1, 6-1 in the \$225,000 event.

Agassi, 20, dominated Garrow by alternating lobs and powerful ground strokes. He said his opponent's size and style dictated the strategy.

"So much depends on the opponent you're playing," said Agassi, who won the tournament in 1989. "He's a little shorter than a lot of guys who play the net, and when you're that short you have to get a lot closer to the net so the lob is really effective."

Connors, 39, attempting to come back after a wrist injury,

trailing 6-1, 5-1, Connors briefly excited the partisan crowd by taking three straight games from the fourth-seeded Rostagno before finally bowing out.

Sampras, the defending U.S. Open champion, served eight aces while winning 75 of his service points and allowing Pearce only one break point opportunity.

"I really didn't let Brad get into the match," Sampras said. "I kind of took it to him."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY APRIL 4, 1991

Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY APRIL 4, 1991

Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

you say and do nothing that could in any way upset someone close to you and then you find what you want available.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have many projects to do and you are all too apt to lose time and good will by thinking others should do your assignments while you play.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You want to have a good time and if you relax and let yourself fit into some pleasant conditions instead of so frantically searching for fun.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can have that disagreement at home that is just what you don't want and can well live without so hold your tongue and show respect.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have all kinds of desires to dash hither and there but be very careful on the highway or in motion or you can have an accident.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your need for more revenue is justly to be considered but avoid taking any risks or chances or doing those things that could bring trouble.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he has a remarkable ability to be completely focused and absorbed in whatever is of importance to them. From earlier days this child will need to be taught to be open-minded and to keep abreast of current conditions which will keep them from developing prejudices.

Navratilova leads seeds into 3rd round

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina (AP) — Top-seeded Martina Navratilova, playing in her first competition in a month, conceded she was rusty during a 6-2, 7-5 victory over Amanda Coetzer of South Africa in the Family Circle Tennis Tournament.

"I was rushing and I was more worried about where to hit the serve rather than thinking about my tempo," Navratilova said. "Once I slowed everything down I was better."

"I hadn't played in a month and the jitters always show up in the serve. I was struggling but I was holding."

Navratilova, the defending champion who has 154 career victories, led a sweep by seeded players on the green clay in the \$500,000 event at the Sea Pines Racquet Club.

Second-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina cruised to a 6-0,

spent the last month practicing and running. She also went skiing for the first time.

The break helped me," she said. "My mind is on the court and I think I played pretty well. I hope I can continue like this."

"I would like to have had 'em gosh, I might lose this set." But really you can't think that way," Capriati said. "You have to be positive and stay in there fighting so you can come back."

Capriati took the tennis world by storm a year ago when she turned professional.

"This year they're (other players) going to be trying to beat me even more," she said. "I did pretty well and they want to beat all just like they want to beat all the top players."

Sanchez Vicario also is playing in her first tournament in a month and only her third of the year. The 1989 French Open winner

fight hooliganism.

"Only then can attractive matches take place in the eastern part of the country," Ferdi Tillmann, chairman of the German parliament's Sports Committee, wrote in the Christian Democratic Party's magazine Union.

He said a portion of the five billion marks (\$2.9 billion) in federal financial aid earmarked to communities in the former east Germany should be spent on soccer stadiums.

The second leg was called off in the 78th minute as riot police used a water cannon to clear fans from the front of the terraces.

Kaiserslautern extends lead at top of Bundesliga

Kaiserslautern added his third 15 minutes later to leave Nuremberg still struggling second from last in the league.

Kaiserslautern's championship hopes were aided when former leaders Bayern Munich went down at home to the only goal of the match to Fortuna Dusseldorf.

Werder Bremen took over second place with a 1-1 away draw against Borussia Dortmund.

Meanwhile, a leading politician has called for a massive investment to rebuild crumbling East German soccer stadiums and

Community-run east met German Football Association or UEFA safety standards.

Meanwhile, officials of Dynamo Dresden, the last east German champions, Tuesday accepted a two-year ban from European competition imposed after crowd trouble during their European Cup quarter-final against Red Star Belgrade last month.

The second leg was called off in the 78th minute as riot police used a water cannon to clear fans from the front of the terraces.

Peanuts



3-16

Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Adam B. de Soto
Daily Mirror Syndicate Inc.

9-27

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAN HIRSCH
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YOU READ IT HERE FIRST

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

♦ A K

♦ 10 8 3

♦ 5 4

♦ K Q 9 8 7 3

♦ Q 9 5 2

♦ 7 9 4

♦ C 10 7 6 2

♦ C K 8 3

♦ J

♦ 10 6 5 4

♦ J 7 6 4 3

♦ C 10 9 8 7

♦ C A 1 9

♦ A 2

The bidding:

West North East South

Pass 1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦

Pass 2 ♦ Pass 3 NT

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♦

This hand was dealt in the trials to select Australia's entry for the world championship. It involves a theme discussed frequently in this column, yet both declarers overlooked the simple, though well concealed, precaution needed to land the contract.

Both tables reached three no trump on the auction shown. With a better-than-minimum opening and a high honor in partner's six-card

hand, the declarer could have

led a low club from hand. Should West follow low, declarer would

lead a dummy and come to hand

with the use of clubs, looking for a 3-2 split. But when West produces the jack, declarer can afford to duck — five club tricks are all he needs. Now there is no way for East to gain the lead before declarer cashes out his nine tricks.

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

♦ A K

♦ 10 8 3

♦ 5 4

♦ K Q 9 8 7 3

♦ Q 9 5 2

♦ 7 9 4

♦ C 10 7 6 2

♦ C K 8 3

♦ J

♦ 10 6 5 4

♦ J 7 6 4 3

♦ C 10 9 8 7

♦ C A 1 9

♦ A 2

The bidding:

Profits of Credit Suisse fall by third

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Credit Suisse, Switzerland's third-largest commercial bank, has posted a 31 per cent drop group net profit in 1990.

Net profit fell to million Swiss francs (\$399 million) last year from 783 million francs (\$580 million) in 1989, the bank said.

Consequently, Credit Suisse said it would propose cutting its dividend on 1990 earnings. It didn't specify how much.

The bank attributed the drop in net profit to a sharp decline in earnings from securities trading.

Credit Suisse Chairman Robert Jeker described the decline as exceptional, and forecast that 1991 earnings would return to the "good levels we achieved in 1989."

Cash flow of Credit Suisse, a unit of C.S. Holding was down 20 per cent last year at 1.18 billion francs (\$1.09 billion).

Atari may build computers in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S.-based Atari Corp. plans to invest \$150 million to make personal computers and electronic games in Israel, sorely needed to help the country absorb an influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

"This is a breakthrough in foreign investment," ministry director-general Zvi Koren told Israel radio.

But he said the Atari proposal depended on the establishment of factories to make parts for the Atari products, such as printed circuit boards and software, and serve other computer and electronic firms.

Such a support network would cost \$75 to \$100 million, the ministry said. Koren said the cabinet could discuss the investment proposal as soon as next week.

The government is not giving more money. It is giving guarantees for loans. If the industry is successful, then it will not cost the government anything. In the event the industry fails, the government will share the losses," he

Atari's investment would be \$150 million and the plant's projected sales would be \$150 million a year, the ministry said. It would initially employ 600 people increasing to 1,000 within five years.

Atari's plan to transfer some operations from Taiwan to Israel indicates it wants to use Israel's free trade agreement with the European Community. To qualify for duty-free trade, the product must include Israeli-made parts.

The ministry believes the related industries would employ 2,000 people and have an export potential of \$300 million to \$500 million.

Orders for factory goods fell in February for the fourth straight month, the government said Tuesday. Analysts said the 0.5 per cent drop was another sign that the manufacturing sector remained in a recession.

"Certainly, in this series of numbers, there doesn't seem to be any sign of a trough or bottom in the recession," said Gilbert Benz, an economist with the Swiss Bank Corp. in New York.

The Commerce Department said orders for durable and non-durable goods fell to \$23.2 billion after shrinking 1.6 per cent a month earlier. Factory orders

have not risen since peaking at \$25.0 billion last October. Benz said he was concerned not only that "big-ticket" durable orders fell, but also that orders for non-durable goods including apparel and household goods declined.

"There doesn't seem to be any demand by businesses or consumers at this point," he said.

Orders for durable goods — big-ticket items ranging from cars to computers expected to last more than three years — slipped 0.3 per cent to \$117.5 billion. It was the third decline in the last four months, including a 2.0 per cent drop in January.

Orders for non-durable products fell for the fourth straight month, down 0.8 per cent to \$115.8 billion after a 1.1 per cent decline in January.

And orders for non-defence capital goods, often a barometer of business plans to expand and modernize, slipped 0.7 per cent following an 11.9 per cent plunge a month earlier.

"When aircraft orders are excluded from non-defence capital goods, the decline was an even more severe 3.9 per cent," said Marilyn Schaja, an economist with Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette Securities Corp. in New York.

Forbes also ranks 500 companies by sales, profits, assets and market value. To distinguish itself from Fortune, it does a composite ranking across all categories to determine the "super 50."

On the composite list, General Electric Co. replaced G.M. as Forbes' "most powerful" com-

Recession eats at Fortune 500 corporations

NEW YORK (AP) — The recession dogged the U.S. biggest companies last year, but General Motors Corp. (G.M.) stayed no. 1 despite \$2 billion in losses, Fortune magazine said in its annual list of 500 top corporations.

A competing ranking by Forbes magazine of what it calls the "most powerful" American companies ignored G.M. entirely because the automaker didn't make any money in 1990.

The weakened economy was the dominant theme in the rankings. Fortune said half of the 50 largest industrial companies on its list lost money or earned less. Overall, Fortune 500 profits fell 11.7 per cent, even though sales rose 6.1 per cent.

G.M. with over \$126 billion in revenues, retained the top spot despite a 0.8 per cent drop in sales. Ford Motor Co. slipped to no. 3 and Chrysler Corp. tumbled three spots to no. 11, reflecting a sour performance by the auto industry.

Fortune bases its list on total sales and rates only industrial companies. The magazine also compiles separate rankings of the companies by profits, assets, stockholder equity and other financial indicators.

Exxon Corp. rose to second place in sales on the Fortune list. Completing the top 10 were International Business Machines Corp. (IBM), Mobil Corp., General Electric Co., Philip Morris Cos., Texaco Inc., Dupont and Chevron Corp.

Forbes also ranks 500 companies by sales, profits, assets and market value. To distinguish itself from Fortune, it does a composite ranking across all categories to determine the "super 50."

On the composite list, General Electric Co. replaced G.M. as

Forbes' "most powerful" com-

pany, followed by Exxon, IBM, Philip Morris, American Telephone-and-Telegraph Co. (AT-and-T), Mobil, Chevron, Dupont, Ford and Amoco Corp.

AT-and-T was not on Fortune's list because it is not an industrial company. The Forbes list includes service companies, retailers, financial institutions and utilities in addition to manufacturers.

The lists showed how the recession touched major sectors of the economy.

Sales sank 96 per cent among transportation equipment companies in the Fortune 500, 79 per cent in textiles, 51 per cent in building materials, 11 per cent in metals, and 27 per cent in motor vehicles and parts.

G.M. lost \$1.986 billion to finish 173rd in profits. Ford made \$860 million — a 79 per cent decline — and Chrysler reported just \$68 million in earnings, about as much as no. 186 Locatie Corp., which makes adhesives.

Occidental Petroleum Corp., which after founder Armand Hammer died announced a huge restructuring charge to pay for ailing projects, lost \$1.7 billion but held on at no. 16 on the Fortune list.

Exxon Corp. rose to second place in sales on the Fortune list. Completing the top 10 were International Business Machines Corp. (IBM), Mobil Corp., General Electric Co., Philip Morris Cos., Texaco Inc., Dupont and Chevron Corp.

The Gulf crisis and resulting rise in oil prices helped the petroleum refining industry stay healthy, with profits 32.6 per cent higher.

Saudis said to discourage dealings with some banks

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia has asked domestic banks to think twice about dealing with a token number of foreign banks which treated them badly during the Gulf crisis, Saudi-based bankers have said.

But they said the instructions, which were given verbally to the kingdom's 12 commercial banks last month, was not an official blacklisting and would have little impact on the six foreign banks named.

Saudi financial authorities intended mainly to signal their displeasure with the way many international banks reacted to the crisis by singling out a few which were the first to arbitrarily cut credit lines to the area, the bankers said.

The affected banks were Japan's Sanwa Bank Ltd and Tokai Bank Ltd, the Royal Bank of Canada, the Bank of Montreal, the Bank of Taiwan and the Taiwan-based International Commercial Bank of China.

"There is nothing official, nothing in writing," said a managing director of one of the kingdom's nine joint venture banks. "They simply contacted us and said these six banks treated Saudi banks very badly during the crisis and we think you should think twice about dealing with them."

Wang Laboratories Inc. lost \$716 million and dropped 22 places to 169th. General Dynamics Corp. fell to 18th from 11th after losing \$578 million. Bethlehem Steel Corp. lost \$161 million and slipped to 106th from 95th.

The Gulf crisis and resulting rise in oil prices helped the petroleum refining industry stay healthy, with profits 32.6 per cent higher.

things lying down... they want to make their displeasure known," a general manager of one of the kingdom's biggest banks said.

All Gulf-based banks were hurt by a loss of international confidence after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The six banks named were slowest to respond and some had even refused to accept letters of credit or even \$1,000 drafts from their clients during the crisis, the bankers said.

"SAMA is hoping that if anything like this ever happens again, banks will not be so quick to cut off their relations," one Saudi banker said.

"But I don't think it will last very long. These six banks will be very keen to make amends," he said.

A spokesman for Sanwa Bank in the Middle East denied that it had ever decided to formally suspend credit lines to Saudi banks during the crisis. Saudi banks were continuing to place large amounts of money with Sanwa, he said.

"Sanwa headquarters never gave instructions to its branches to suspend credit lines to Saudi banks and did not refuse to take money from them... but individual dealers not familiar with the Middle East may have done this," he said.

"We are still taking large amounts of deposits from Saudi banks — nothing has changed," he added.

Saudi bankers said most inter-

U.S. factory orders drop for 4th month in February

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders for factory goods fell in February for the fourth straight month, the government said Tuesday. Analysts said the 0.5 per cent drop was another sign that the manufacturing sector remained in a recession.

"Certainly, in this series of numbers, there doesn't seem to be any sign of a trough or bottom in the recession," said Gilbert Benz, an economist with the Swiss Bank Corp. in New York.

The Commerce Department said orders for durable and non-durable goods fell to \$23.2 billion after shrinking 1.6 per cent a month earlier. Factory orders

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, April 3, 1991

Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
French franc	119.0	119.7
Japanese yen (for 100)	491.2	494.1
Dutch guilder	357.9	360.0
Swedish crown	111.5	112.2
Italian lira (for 100)	54.1	54.4
Belgian franc (for 10)	196.0	197.2

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.7745/55	U.S. dollar	1.1551/56
One U.S. dollar	1.6720/27	Canadian dollar	1.6845/55
Pound Sterling	1.4180/87	Deutschmarks	34.40/44
Deutschmark	5.6650/6700	Dutch guilders	1246/1247
Swiss franc	137.35/45	Belgian francs	137.08/80
Japanese yen	6.0480/80	French francs	6.5070/20
Swedish crowns	6.4100/50	Italian lire	6.4100/50
Norwegian crowns	358.20/358.70	Japanese yen	358.20/358.70

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

TOKYO — Stocks closed sharply higher after Wall Street and the yen both made gains on Tuesday. The Nikkei index rose 528.06 points, or 2.01 per cent, to 26,780.06.

SYDNEY — Shares cautiously tracked bullish overseas markets to close higher in relatively light turnover. The All Ordinaries index ended 2.2 points higher at 1,457.0.

HONG KONG — The market's bull run showed few signs of faltering as fresh buy orders drove the Hang Seng index up 79.91 points to end 2.1 per cent higher at 3,869.70.

SINGAPORE — Shares closed mixed after selective bargain hunting alternated with profit-taking. The Straits Times Industrial index closed at 1,488.01, up 7.52 points.

BOMBAY — Prices finished mixed after a bullish opening for the third day. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index soared to 1,217.76 points in early trade but fell to 1,202.90, down 6.33 points from Tuesday's close. The National Index finished 0.23 points higher at 604.22.

FRANKFURT — The market surged 2.5 per cent on domestic and foreign buying. The DAX ended 38.88 points higher at 1,577.50.

ZURICH — Shares closed over one per cent higher, encouraged by Wall Street's strong gains. The SPI index rose 13.1 points, or 1.23 per cent, to 1,074.1.

LONDON — The FTSE 100 index ended at a record closing high of 2,519.1 points, up 30.8, supported by a mostly steady performance from the Dow Jones Industrial index.

MAID MISSING



The Filipina maid Antonia Sata — see photo above — was reported missing from her employer's house for more than seven months, and has not returned since then, despite informing the police about her disappearance. Therefore, anyone who conceals information about her or provides her with shelter will be legally liable.

The sponsor.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER ANGLICAN CHURCH

SERVICES IN ENGLISH

Maundy Thursday April 4 5:00 pm Eucharist with Washing of feet
Good Friday, April 5 6:00 pm Good Friday Service (Arabic/English)
Holy Saturday, April 6 6:00 pm Easter Vigil with Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Easter Day, April 7 6:00 am Dawn Service at Mount Nebo
6:30 pm Easter Eucharist

Tel: 628543

AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL

Arabic Classes

Colloquial Jordanian Arabic for BEGINNERS

Dates: twice weekly, evenings, 21 April — 18 June

Fee JD 70

Registration: 3,6,9,10 April, 1 pm to 5 pm

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Happy Easter

Family Easter Luncheon Buffet

Treat your family and yourself to a Spectacular luncheon buffet at Easter Day in the

CROWN ROTISSERIE
You will enjoy the many goodies that will come your way.

Russian leader suffers string of defeats in parliament

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian Federation leader Boris Yeltsin suffered a setback in his campaign against central Kremlin rule Wednesday when Communist deputies voted down his call for swift direct elections to an executive presidency.

The vote was one of a series of defeats Wednesday for Yeltsin, who would almost certainly win any election for the Russian presidency and thereby strengthen his hold against rival Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Congress of People's Deputies, the republic's highest legislature, rejected by clear margin Yeltsin's request that the lower-sitting parliament should arrange for the holding of elections at the end of May or beginning of June.

The population of Russia, by far the most powerful of the 15 Soviet republics, voted in favour of a directly elected Russian president at a referendum last month. But hardliners and many more moderate Communists fear this could unleash a fierce power struggle between Yeltsin and Gorbachev.

Both men were elected to their present positions by their respective parliaments.

The congress, debating a resolution on last week's report by Yeltsin, adopted a vaguer proposal for the lower parliament to work on legislation for an executive presidency. But it set no

timescale.

The congress, which elected Yeltsin its leader by only a narrow margin 10 months ago and now proves only a tenuous power base, also rejected Yeltsin's call in a speech last week for a Soviet government of national confidence to save the country from economic and political chaos.

And it dismissed Yeltsin's plan, mooted last November at talks with Gorbachev, for a round-table body involving liberal and some Communist groups.

Hardline Communists called the congress meeting, which began Thursday, aiming to block Yeltsin's efforts to wrest control from Soviet authorities or even to remove him as leader.

But Russian Communist Party leader Ivan Polozkov, while maintaining his opposition to Yeltsin, acknowledged Tuesday that the time was "not right" for a change in the Russian leadership.

Meanwhile, violence flared in the aftermath of Georgia's resounding independence vote, and one prominent politician said Tuesday he feared the Kremlin would send troops into the fractious southern republic.

Ethnic fighting broke out shortly the polls closed Sunday in one section of the fractious southern republic, where Georgians voted 98 per cent in favour of restoring their pre-World War I independence status.

On Monday, the national

legislature authorised President Mikhail Gorbachev to impose a state of emergency and deploy troops in an area of the republic torn by ethnic violence.

Gorbachev had not issued the order by Tuesday evening, and his spokesman said he would have no public comment on the referendum, which the Kremlin says was unconstitutional.

"We treat it as a sociological study," presidential spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko told a regular news briefing.

But Vakhtang Khmaladze, deputy chairman of Georgia's Electoral Commission, said Tuesday he feared the legislature's action was a response to the independence vote.

"This is a direct result of an exceptionally active participation of the population in the referendum and of the support by the overwhelming part of the population to the restoration of Georgian independence," he told the independent Infogeorgia News Agency.

He also is deputy chairman of the Democratic Choice for Georgia, a nationalist political organisation.

Khmaladze said a bomb hit a house and killed one man, an ethnic Georgian, when ethnic fighting erupted an hour after the polls closed in the town of Selo Nikozi, which borders the troubled South Ossetian region.

Gorbachev had proposed "immediate measures be taken to stop the bloodshed and actions by gunmen, to thwart their intentions to capture and destroy villages and to begin negotiations."

Fighting between the mainly

Novelist Graham Greene dies

VEVEY, Switzerland (R) — British novelist Graham Greene died Wednesday aged 86, his daughter Caroline Bourget told Reuters.

Bourget said Greene died of a blood disease at 11:35 a.m. (0935 GMT) at a hospital in the Lake Geneva city of Vevey.

"He's had a good life, you know," she tearfully told Reuters by telephone.

She declined to speak further and said the date and arrangements for the funeral had not yet been fixed.

Greene, widely regarded as one of the century's leading writers, wrote *The Power And The Glory*, *Our Man In Havana*, *The Third Man* and dozens of other novels.

He left his longtime home in Antibes, in the south of France, last year to seek medical treatment in Switzerland.

Born of middle-class parents in the town of Berkhamsted, northwest of London, Greene was still at school when he began to travel along unconventional paths.

His experiences included alcohol, drugs, psychoanalysis, a flirtation with communism and the British secret service.

All these, tempered by the Roman Catholicism he adopted while at Oxford University, provided material for some 60 literary works.

Greene began work as a sub-editor on the Times of London in 1926, leaving to become a full-time writer on the strength of a relatively successful first novel, *The Man Within*.

Eight more works before World War II enhanced a growing reputation and in 1940 he brought out *The Power And The Glory*.

Greene had more screen adaptations than any other modern author and was translated into 27 languages with sales exceeding 20 million.

Born on Oct. 2, 1904, Greene was the fourth of six children of a headmaster. His younger brother Hugh, who died in February 1987, was for 10 years director-general of the British Broadcasting Corporation.

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